

VISIT...

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Tip

You have to think about the entire selection to choose the best answer.

Directions: Answer the questions.**1. What is the theme of the selection?**

- A** The Transcontinental Railroad should not have been built.
- B** Building the Transcontinental Railroad took tremendous effort.
- C** The problems in building the Transcontinental Railroad were minor.
- D** Important people with money made the Transcontinental Railroad possible.

2. Which of these BEST describes the viewpoints of the poet and the author of the selection?

- A** Both believe that the work on the railroads was a positive influence.
- B** The author thinks the railway is great, and the poet does not.
- C** Both writers are angry about the hardships of working on the railroad.
- D** The poet thinks the work was worthwhile, but the author does not.

3. What does the word *construction* mean on page 635?

- A** moving from one place to another
- B** taking something apart
- C** the act of building something
- D** the process of clearing land

4. The news reporter's account of the railroad shop is an example of a primary source. Why do you think it is included here?**5. Why was the building of the railroad called the work of giants? What challenges did the railroad workers face? Use details from the selection to support your answer.****Writing Prompt**

Write a speech to persuade people to work on the railroad. Include the benefits and hardships workers will have to face. Your speech should be at least three paragraphs long.







Talk About It

What are the features of a fairy tale? Why do you think fairy tales are still popular after hundreds of years?



Find out more about fairy tales at
www.macmillanmh.com

Fairy Tales

Vocabulary

dismiss	descended
intentions	accompany
despair	delicacies
bridle	consented

Homophones

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. For example, the homophones *bridle* and *bridal* sound alike but have very different meanings.

A Real Princess

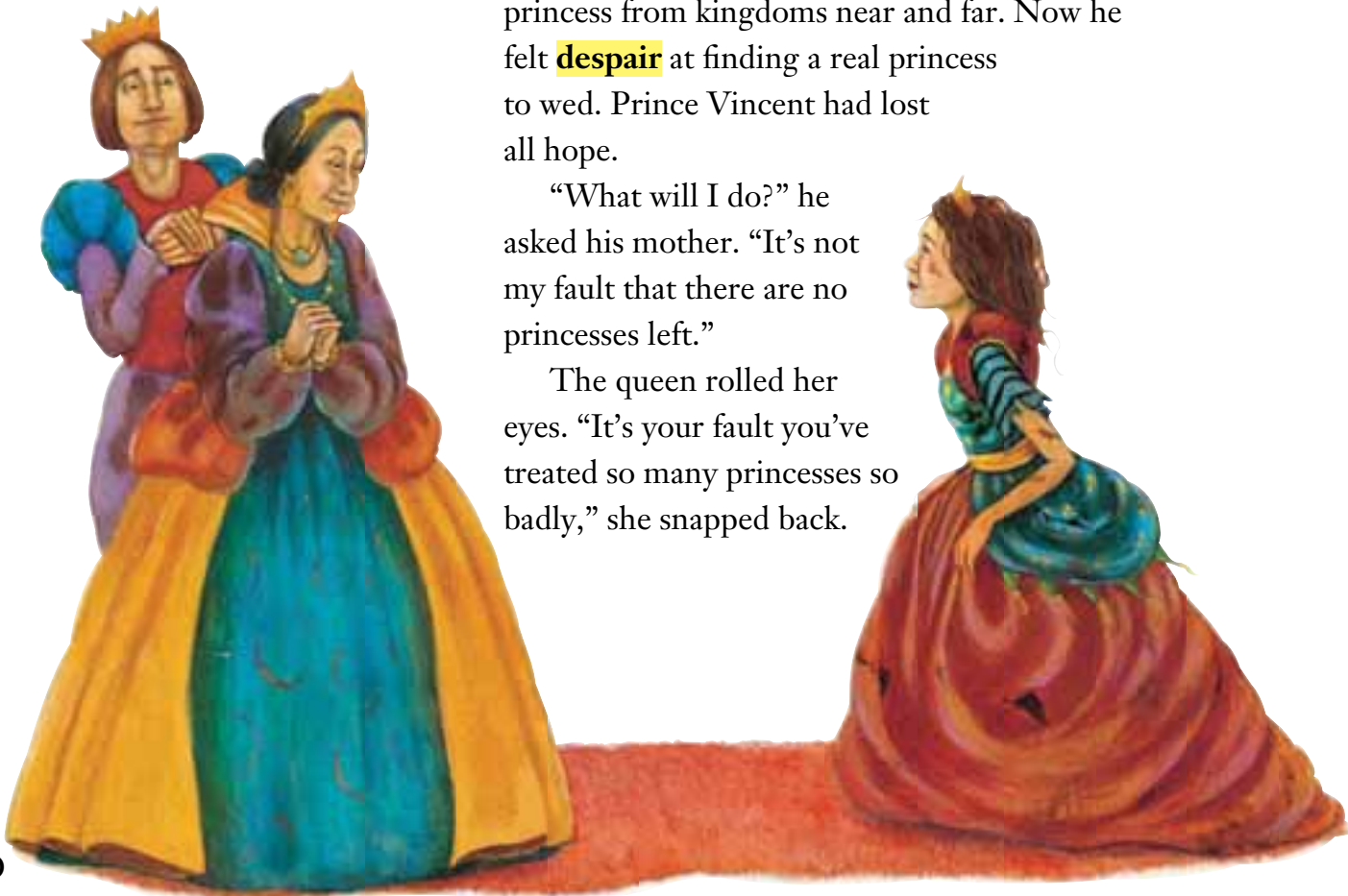
by Tonya Schaeffer

Once upon a time there was a prince named Vincent. He was about to turn 30 years old. This was an important age. If he didn't marry a princess by his birthday, the king's advisors would **dismiss** him from the court. They would send the prince away, and he would never be able to become king.

Prince Vincent's **intentions** did not include losing the crown. However, over the years, he had broken the heart of every princess from kingdoms near and far. Now he felt **despair** at finding a real princess to wed. Prince Vincent had lost all hope.

"What will I do?" he asked his mother. "It's not my fault that there are no princesses left."

The queen rolled her eyes. "It's your fault you've treated so many princesses so badly," she snapped back.



Just then a young lady approached the castle. Her **bridle** had broken. The harness would not go over her horse's nose.

The girl entered the great hall after she **descended** from the great staircase. She introduced herself as Princess Araya from Zelnorm. When Prince Vincent saw her torn and muddy clothes, he sighed. "This cannot be the princess who will solve my problem," he said to his mother. "In fact, I doubt she's a princess at all," he said.

The queen thought for a moment. "I know how to find out," she said. "However, if it turns out she *is* a princess, you must promise to marry her."

"Done!" Prince Vincent said. He was sure his mother was wrong.

Now the queen had a plan. First, she asked a servant to **accompany** Araya to the dining room. There the princess was fed rare **delicacies** from faraway lands prepared by the royal chef. Then the queen gave orders to get the best room ready.

"I want seven feather-filled mattresses on the bed," she demanded. "Place a small pebble at the bottom of the pile. Only a true princess will be able to feel it."

The next morning the queen asked Araya how she had slept.

"I didn't sleep at all!" Araya said. "I saw a homeless mother and child standing by the castle gate, so I took them two mattresses. When I saw other needy townfolk nearby, I gave away the other mattresses. My father, King Paul, will repay you."

The queen was speechless. Prince Vincent, however, was not. He finally saw the real beauty of Princess Araya and asked her to be his wife. She **consented** to his request, and the two of them became the kindest rulers in all the land.

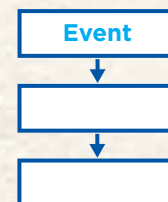


Reread for Comprehension



Summarize Sequence

A Sequence Chart helps you summarize information by listing events or actions in the order that they take place. Use your Sequence Chart as you reread "A Real Princess" to figure out the sequence of events.



Comprehension

Genre

Fairy Tales take place long ago, have imaginary characters and settings, and involve good and evil.



Summarize

Sequence

Look for important plot details. As you read, use your Sequence Chart.

Event
↓
↓

Read to Find Out

How does the mare help Alexi achieve his goals?

The Golden Mare, the Firebird, and the Magic Ring

by Ruth Sanderson





Once upon a time, in a place where magical beasts still roamed the earth, a young man named Alexi left home to seek his fortune and perhaps to find an adventure or two as well.

Alexi was an excellent huntsman, but after traveling for a week he had found neither work nor adventure. One evening, as night **descended** and the moon arose, he made camp at the edge of a glade.

A noise of hoofbeats in the forest startled Alexi. Thinking it a herd of deer or some other game, the lad readied his bow. Yet the young hunter did not loose his arrow, for the beast that appeared in the clearing was too



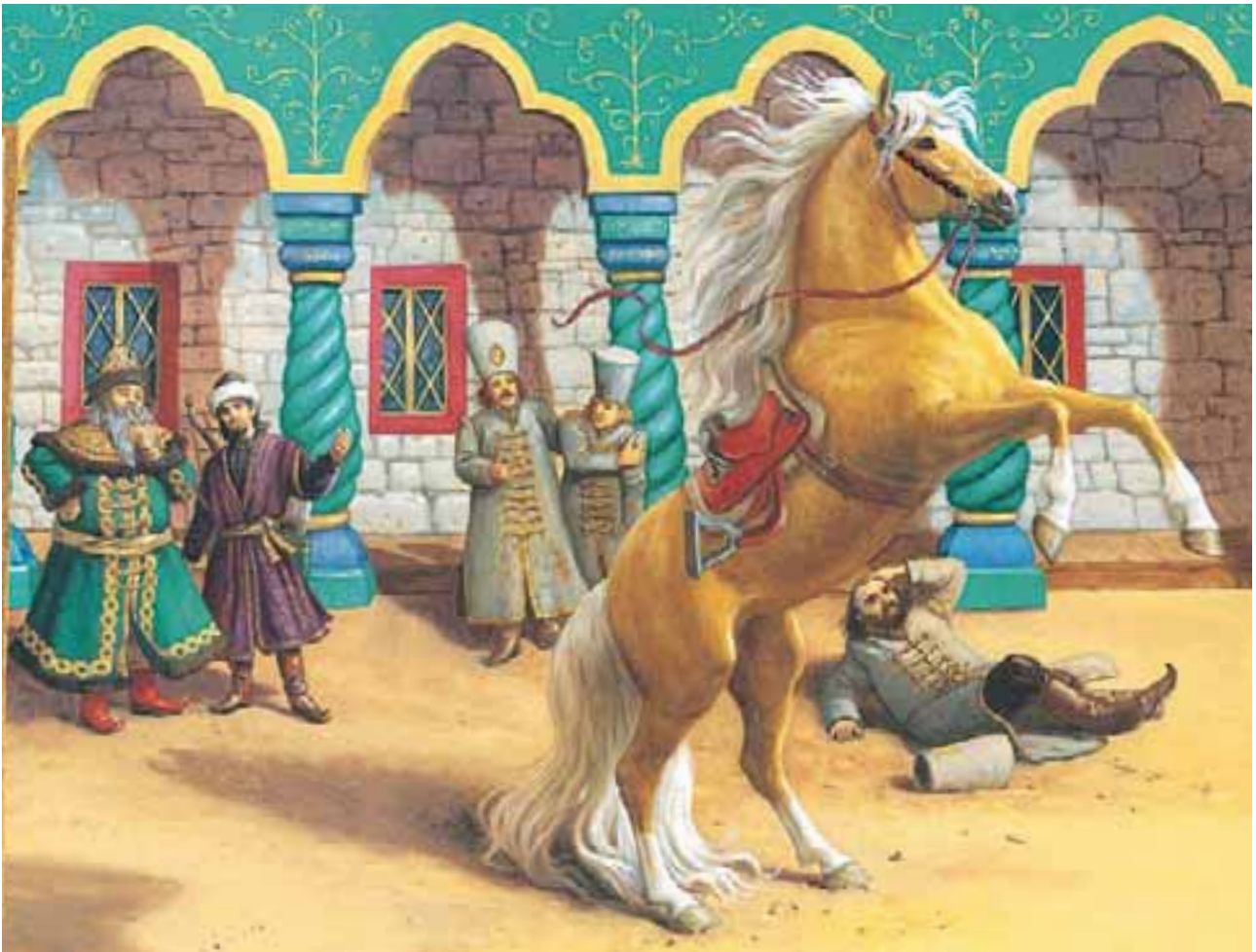
wondrous to shoot. It was a golden mare with a silvery-white mane that streamed around her and sparkled in the moonlight.

The Golden Mare stood and gazed at the huntsman, who pointed an arrow at her heart.

“Hold, fair sir, do not shoot,” said the mare, to the astonishment of the lad. Alexi lowered his bow and slowly approached the remarkable mare.

“I am at your service for sparing my life,” she said. “What is your desire?”

Alexi told the mare he sought work and adventure.



“The Tsar of this region could use another huntsman,” said the horse. “Tomorrow I will take you to his palace. If he hires you, I promise to serve you well.”

The next morning Alexi fashioned a rough **bridle** with a bit of rope, mounted the Golden Mare, and set off for the palace of the Tsar.

The Tsar hired the young man at once, so impressed was he by Alexi’s mount. He offered Alexi a princely sum for the mare.

“Thank you, sire,” said Alexi, “but I’m afraid she’ll allow no rider but me.” Annoyed that his offer was declined, the Tsar ordered a saddle and a real bridle put on the horse, but not one of his men could stay on the Golden Mare’s back.

The Tsar glowered at Alexi, for he usually got what he wanted. “I trust that you will serve me *quite* well,” he said coldly, not wanting to **dismiss** him in case he turned out to be a good huntsman.

In just a few weeks, Alexi became first among the Tsar's huntsmen, for he was a good shot and the Golden Mare was swift at the chase. As luck would have it, there came a day that Alexi spied no game but rode on and on until it began to grow dark. He was about to turn the mare around when he noticed something glowing brightly on the path ahead. It was a golden feather, bright as a flame, and Alexi knew it must be a feather from the great Firebird.

"I will take this prize to the Tsar," said Alexi. "Then perhaps he will look upon me with favor."

The Golden Mare was protective of her kind master. "If you take the Firebird's feather, you will surely learn the meaning of fear," she warned. But so confident was Alexi that he did not heed her words and presented the feather to the Tsar the very next day.



Sequence

What events in the story lead Alexi to a position as a huntsman with the Tsar?



As the Tsar greedily took the feather, he saw a way to rid himself of this insolent huntsman, whose horse was a constant reminder of what he could not have.

“You bring me a mere feather!” bellowed the Tsar. “If you are so clever, bring me the whole bird, or I’ll have your head brought in on a platter!”

Alexi left the throne room in **despair** and went to the Golden Mare’s stall.

“Do not worry,” said the Golden Mare. “Ask the Tsar to have a hundred sacks of maize scattered at midnight upon the open field on the hill. I will see to the rest.”

The Tsar agreed to Alexi’s request, and at midnight his men scattered one hundred sacks of maize on the field. Alexi took the saddle and bridle off the Golden Mare and she wandered loose in the field. Then he hid in the branches of a huge oak tree that stood at the top of the hill. All night they waited.

As the first golden rays of dawn lit the sky, from the eastern edge of the world the Firebird came flying, wings aflame with the reflected light of the sun.







The mighty bird landed in the field and began to eat the maize. As the Golden Mare grazed nearby, she wandered closer and closer to the Firebird. When the bird was close enough, the mare placed a hoof upon its tail, pinning it to the ground. The Firebird tried in vain to fly away, but the mare held fast. Alexi jumped from the tree, tied the struggling bird securely with rope, and placed it carefully in a sack.



The Tsar was amazed to see Alexi bearing the mythical Firebird. He ordered a huge, ornate cage built for the magnificent bird. People came from miles around to see the captive Firebird, and all the neighboring tsars were quite jealous of his prize possession. Alexi, however, felt sorry for the bird and wished he had never seen its feather shining in the forest path.



Alexi remained the Tsar's best huntsman and brought him much profit. But no matter how well Alexi did, he could not please the Tsar, for the Golden Mare still obeyed Alexi alone.

A few weeks later, the Tsar called Alexi to him.

"Since you seem to have a talent for impossible tasks, I have another one for you," said the Tsar. "In a distant eastern land, Yelena the Fair sails in her golden boat upon the Lake of the Sun. Find her and bring her back to be my bride. It will mean your death if you fail."

With a heavy heart, Alexi went to the Golden Mare, certain that this new task was hopeless. "Ask the Tsar for a brocaded tent and all sorts of sweetmeats and **delicacies**," the mare said, "and I will take you to her."

The Tsar supplied Alexi with a beautiful tent and fine foods, which Alexi packed into saddlebags upon the Golden Mare's broad back.

As they set out, it seemed to Alexi that the mare's feet barely touched the ground, so swiftly did she run. For seven days and nights she ran, through green forests, past waterfalls, up and down mountains, until on the eighth morning she stopped.

Silhouetted against the blazing sunrise, the boat of Yelena the Fair sailed upon the Lake of the Sun.

Alexi set up the tent and arranged rugs and cushions inside along with the fancy foods he had brought. Then he sat inside and waited for Yelena the Fair. Before long the boat sailed closer and closer to the shore until finally she lowered sail and landed upon the beach. Stepping out lightly, the maiden approached the regal-looking tent and saw the feast that Alexi had laid out.

Yelena and Alexi had a merry time, eating and talking of many things.

“My master the Tsar is rich and powerful, and famous, too,” Alexi boasted. “And he has in his possession the legendary Firebird. Perhaps you would accept the Tsar’s invitation to be an honored guest at his palace.”

Yelena the Fair was so impressed by Alexi’s persuasive words and gracious manner that she agreed to **accompany** him. When Alexi lifted the beautiful young maiden upon the Golden Mare’s back, he felt a pang of guilt for not mentioning the old Tsar’s true **intentions** to make her his wife.

The Tsar was astonished to see Alexi coming through the palace gates with Yelena the Fair.

“My bride!” he exclaimed.

Yelena the Fair was not pleased and quickly realized that Alexi had brought her there under false pretenses. She looked from the old Tsar to the young huntsman who had trapped her.

“I will marry no man,” she said to the Tsar, “without my grandmother’s wedding ring. It lies under a stone at the bottom of the Lake of the Sun.”

“Well,” said the Tsar, gesturing impatiently to Alexi, “what are you waiting for? Go at once and fetch the ring!”

When Alexi was alone with the Golden Mare, he said, “I do not wish to fetch Yelena’s wedding ring for the Tsar, for then she, too, would be a captive like the Firebird.”





“I will retrieve it then,” said the Golden Mare. “Whatever happens, do not worry, for it is a magic ring and can grant its wearer any one wish.”

When she reached the Lake of the Sun the mare stamped her hoof three times on the sand. A huge crab crawled out of the water.

“At the bottom of the lake there is a ring under a stone,” said the Golden Mare. “Please get it for Yelena the Fair, for she has need of it.”

Patiently the Golden Mare waited on the shore while the crab called together all the creatures that crawled on the lake’s bottom to search for the ring. After some time he emerged with ring in claw. Delicately the Golden Mare took the ring in her teeth and then fairly flew back to the palace stables, where Alexi awaited.

Alexi presented the ring to the Tsar, who gave it at once to Yelena the Fair.

“You have your ring,” he said. “Now let the wedding bells be rung! Let the feast be prepared!”

“Wait,” said the shrewd maiden, who saw the remorse in Alexi’s eyes. “I cannot marry a man as old as you, for you are surely four times my age.”

“But what can I do about that?” asked the Tsar.

“Indeed, you can do something...with my help,” said Yelena. “Prepare a cauldron of boiling water, and with my magical power I will turn it into the Water of Youth. If you bathe in it you will become young again.”







The Tsar ordered the cauldron prepared, and soon the water bubbled and steamed.

“Let us first test this miracle,” said the Tsar slyly. “You, Alexi, will be the first to enter the pot. Guards, seize him!” The Tsar’s men held Alexi fast. He remembered the Golden Mare’s words about the ring and hoped that they were true, for now he knew the meaning of fear.

Yelena the Fair approached the cauldron and passed her hand several times over the boiling water. Silently, she made a wish and dropped the magic ring into the cauldron.

“It is ready,” she said.

At the Tsar’s signal, the guards flung Alexi into the boiling liquid. He sank below the surface once, twice, and after the third time he rose like a shot and leaped from the cauldron. He was in perfect health and unharmed by the scalding water. No one but Yelena noticed the golden ring on his little finger.

Hoping to be as young and as strong as his huntsman, the Tsar jumped into the cauldron. At the same instant, Alexi made a wish on the magic ring, for he did not desire the Tsar’s death.



Sequence

What key events in the story lead up to the moment when Alexi is flung into the boiling water?



To everyone's surprise, Alexi reached into the cauldron and lifted out a little baby, smiling and unharmed. The Tsar was indeed young again!

Since the Tsar was now too young to rule, the people made Alexi the Tsar in his place. And Yelena the Fair **consented** to become his bride. So she did marry the Tsar after all. And as for the baby Tsar, he was given a new name and raised as their own child.

As his first official act as Tsar, Alexi ordered the release of the Firebird, for such a bird did not belong in a cage. In a joyful blaze of light it flew to its home in the eastern sky. The Golden Mare ran free once more, but she continued to advise Alexi until the end of his days.



Once Upon a Time with Ruth Sanderson

Ruth Sanderson could usually be found reading books about horses in the library where her grandmother worked. This led to her second passion: drawing. On Saturday mornings in the fourth grade, Ruth started a class to teach her friends how to draw. It's no surprise that when Ruth grew up, she went to art school and became a writer and illustrator of children's fantasy and fairy tale books. Ruth is married and has two daughters.



Other books by Ruth Sanderson:
Papa Gatto and *Crystal Mountain*



Find out more about
Ruth Sanderson at
www.macmillanmh.com

Author's Purpose

Ruth Sanderson entertains readers with this tale. In what ways is *The Golden Mare*, *the Firebird*, and *the Magic Ring* informative as well?

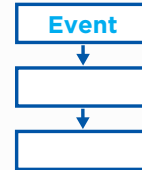


Comprehension Check



Summarize

Use your Sequence Chart to summarize *The Golden Mare, the Firebird, and the Magic Ring*. Keeping track of the order of events can help you better understand the story.



Think and Compare



1. Describe how the story would be different if the author changed the sequence of events. **Summarize: Sequence**
2. Reread page 653. Why does Alexi feel guilty about persuading Yelena the Fair to visit the Tsar? **Analyze**
3. If the Golden Mare were to **accompany** you throughout your life, what might you ask her to help you do? Explain. **Synthesize**
4. The Tsar only thinks about himself. How do selfish people create difficult situations? Explain your answer. **Evaluate**
5. Reread “A Real Princess” on pages 640–641. Explain the similarities and differences between Alexi’s and Prince Vincent’s situations. Use details from both selections in your answer. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**

Social Studies

Informational Nonfiction

gives information and facts about a topic.

Text Feature

A **Venn Diagram** shows the similarities and differences between two things.

Content Vocabulary

versions

identity

transforms

elements



A Tale Told Around the World

by Lateesha Gray

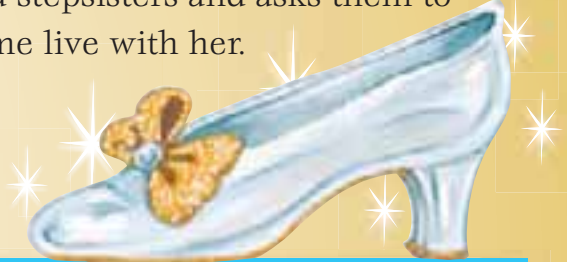
People all over the world enjoy fairy tales. Some fairy tales may be popular in only one country, but others are told around the globe. For example, the story of Cinderella has more than 500 **versions**. In most versions a kind young girl is the main character and other characters include a cruel stepmother and her equally cruel daughters, a fairy godmother, and a prince.

The plot is similar in all of the tales. The young girl is forced to do household chores, then someone grants her wish and helps her attend a celebration, such as a ball. At the ball the girl's beauty attracts a powerful man who falls in love at once. The girl's true **identity** is kept secret so the man must search all over the land for her.

The French Cinderella

The French writer Charles Perrault wrote the Cinderella tale that most of us know. Cinderella, or Cendrillon, is very beautiful, and her stepsisters are ugly and jealous. Cinderella is forced to do the most difficult chores. One day the prince invites all of the women in the kingdom to a ball. Cinderella almost does not go, until a fairy godmother appears and helps Cinderella. The fairy godmother waves her wand and **transforms** Cinderella's ragged dress into a beautiful gown.

Cinderella also wears glass slippers. The transformation will wear off at midnight so she must be sure to leave before then. As she is leaving the ball, Cinderella loses a slipper and the prince looks all over the kingdom for her. The prince finds her and marries her. At the end of the story, Cinderella forgives her stepmother and stepsisters and asks them to come live with her.



Venn Diagram



Reading a Venn Diagram

In a Venn diagram, differences are written in the left and right ovals. The similarities are written in the center section.

French Version

- Glass slipper
- Fancy ball
- Prince
- Fairy godmother
- Stepmother and stepsisters nice to her later

Cinderella Stories

- A kind young girl is treated badly
- Evil stepmother, stepsisters
- Receives help that transforms her
- Must be home at a certain time
- Loses slipper
- Powerful man searches for unknown girl
- Man marries girl

Chinese Version

- Gold slipper
- Festival
- King
- Talking fish
- Stepmother and stepsister never see her again

The Chinese Cinderella

In the Chinese version, Yeh-Shen also has an evil stepmother and stepsisters. Her only friend is a beautiful fish with golden eyes. Her stepmother later kills the talking fish and cooks it for dinner. However, Yeh-Shen learns that the fish's bones are magical and hides them. The bones later help her dress in fine clothing for a festival. While rushing to leave the festival to be home by a certain time, she loses a gold slipper. A king buys the slipper and searches for its owner. When he meets Yeh-Shen, he is struck by her beauty and falls in love. Yeh-Shen's stepmother and stepsisters are forbidden to see her.



The Egyptian Cinderella



An Egyptian version of *Cinderella* is based on the actual marriage of a slave girl and the pharaoh, or ruler, of ancient Egypt. In this version Rhodopis, a servant girl from Greece, is teased by other servants in the household. Her only friends are the animals along the river. She often sings and dances for them. One evening she loses a slipper, and a falcon snatches it. The falcon flies over the pharaoh's throne and drops the slipper. The pharaoh searches his kingdom for the woman whose foot fits the slipper. When he finds Rhodopis, he falls in love and she becomes his queen.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN CINDERELLA

Some Native American tales echo many of the **elements** of *Cinderella*. One famous tale tells about a young maiden whose hands and face are burned from tending a fire. Like the European Cinderella, she is usually left out of events and feels as though she does not belong. This story, however, uses the setting and customs of the Algonquian nation to tell this tale. A Zuni version features talking turkeys that help the girl. The setting for that tale is a village in the southwestern United States.



Connect and Compare



1. Look at the Venn diagram on page 663. What are two details from the French Cinderella story that are different from details in the Chinese version? **Reading a Venn Diagram**
2. Why do you think the story of Cinderella is so popular around the world? **Analyze**
3. Think about *The Golden Mare*, *the Firebird*, and *the Magic Ring*. In what ways is the story similar to that of *Cinderella* and *Yeh-Shen*? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Social Studies Activity

Make a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts a Cinderella tale from another culture to the Cinderella story you know.



Find out more about Cinderella tales at www.macmillanmh.com



Writer's Craft

Voice

In an eyewitness account, writers describe the important events they see and how they feel. They use appropriate words to show **voice**. That way, readers feel as if they were there.

Write an Eyewitness Account

First Steps

by Natsu Y.

I shared my own thoughts about my little brother's first steps.

I witnessed something very important and unexpected the day my little brother, Toshi, turned 11 months old.

We were in the living room after dinner. Toshi was standing up, holding on to the coffee table. He does that well. I sat on the floor a few yards away. Toshi has never walked before. He was never able to balance himself without the coffee table.

"Come on, Toshi! Walk over to me!" I called. I thought he would never do it. I had been calling to him for over a month, but he wouldn't move from behind that table.

Toshi stared at me, smiling and bouncing. Suddenly, he put his arms straight out and started walking right toward me. I couldn't believe it! One, two, three, four steps, then plop. My little brother had taken his first steps, and they were right to me!

I expressed how happy and proud I felt.



Your Turn

What interesting or important event have you witnessed? Write an eyewitness account about how you felt, and describe the event in detail. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☒ **Ideas and Content:** Did I choose to describe an event that was important to me?
- ☒ **Organization:** Can the reader tell how the event unfolded before me?
- ☐ **Voice:** Did I share the emotions I felt as I witnessed the event? Did I choose words that show **voice**?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I use vivid words to describe the details of what happened?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Did I use a variety of sentence types?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Did I use adverbs correctly? Did I proofread for spelling errors?